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SUGAR PRODUCTION - QUEENSLAND.THE 1943 CROP.

These statistics have been compiled from returns received from the thirty-three mills which crushed during the 1943 season, together with particulars furnished by growers in the collection of Agricultural Statistics for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1944, and some information from the Sugar Board and other sources.

Growers, Areas and Yields at Various Periods.

| Period. | Farms Growing Cane. | Area Cultivated for Sugar. (a) | Area Cut for Crushing. | Cane Crushed. | Sugar Made at 94 N.T. |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | No. | Acres. | Acres. | Tons. | Tons. |
| Average 1911 - 1915 .. | N | 146,799 | 95,837 | 1,537,880 | 179,107 |
| " 1916 - 1920 .. | N | 162,921 | 94,042 | 1,711,354 | 200,840 |
| " 1921 - 1925 .. | N | 225,962 | 151,933 | 2,668,161 | 346,776 |
| " 1926 - 1930 .. | 7,255 | 282,513 | 209,132 | 3,465,545 | 486,187 |
| " 1931 - 1935 .. | 7,395 | 306,298 | 222,689 | 4,147,921 | 591,021 |
| " 1936 - 1940 .. | 7,778 | 347,900 | 253,675 | 5,373,068 | 787,427 |
| Season 1939 .. | 7,820 | 353,936 | 262,181 | 6,038,821 | 891,738 |
| " 1940 .. | 7,554 | 350,851 | 263,299 | 5,180,868 | 759,416 |
| " 1941 .. | 7,538 | 343,787 | 246,073 | 4,794,237 | 697,644 |
| " 1942 .. | 6,945 | 309,691 | 231,256 | 4,353,488 | 605,609 |
| " 1943 .. | 6,871 | 320,741 | 220,932 | 3,397,617 | 486,423 |

(a) Exclusive of area cut for green fodder. In 1943 the area so utilised in the sugar-growing districts was 5,292 acres.

N Not available.

The steep war-time decline in this industry was accelerated in 1943, when production dropped by 119,186 tons, or 20 per cent., below the 1942 level, bringing the total fall from the record 1939 output to 405,315 tons, or 45 per cent. At 6,871, the number of farms growing cane for sugar reached its lowest level since 1923, when the number was 6,233.

However, the latest information concerning the 1944 crushing shows that the industry has more than recovered the ground lost in 1943. Better seasonal conditions, a somewhat easier labour position and a substantially improved supply of fertiliser have combined to produce a crop which is estimated to have yielded about 640,000 tons of 94 N.T. sugar.

Average Areas and Yields of Cane and Sugar at Various Periods.

| Period. | Cane Per Farm. | | | Cane Per Acre Cut for Crushing. | Sugar Per Acre Cut for Crushing. | Cane to Make One Ton of Sugar. |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Cultivated. | Cut for Crushing. | Crushed. | | | |
| | Acres. | Acres. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| Average 1911-15 .. | N | N | N | 16.05 | 1.87 | 8.57 |
| " 1916-20 .. | N | N | N | 18.20 | 2.14 | 8.52 |
| " 1921-25 .. | N | N | N | 17.56 | 2.28 | 7.69 |
| " 1926-30 .. | 38.9 | 28.8 | 478 | 16.57 | 2.32 | 7.13 |
| " 1931-35 .. | 41.4 | 30.1 | 561 | 18.63 | 2.65 | 7.02 |
| " 1936-40 .. | 44.7 | 32.6 | 691 | 21.18 | 3.10 | 6.82 |
| Season 1939 .. | 45.3 | 33.7 | 772 | 23.03 | 3.40 | 6.77 |
| " 1940 .. | 46.4 | 34.9 | 686 | 19.68 | 2.88 | 6.82 |
| " 1941 .. | 45.6 | 32.6 | 636 | 19.48 | 2.84 | 6.87 |
| " 1942 .. | 44.6 | 33.3 | 627 | 18.83 | 2.62 | 7.19 |
| " 1943 .. | 46.7 | 32.2 | 494 | 15.38 | 2.20 | 6.98 |

N. Not available.

The cultivated area of the average cane farm has continued to grow during the war years, but the average area cut for crushing has remained steady. The quality of the 1943 cane (6.98 tons to make one ton of sugar) showed a good recovery from the very poor standard of 1942 (7.19 tons to make one ton of sugar - the highest ratio since 1933), but the average yield of 15.38 tons of cane per acre for crushing was a drop of 18 per cent. on 1942 and the lowest figure recorded for twenty years. At 2.20 tons, the amount of sugar produced per acre cut for crushing was the poorest return since 1926.

Queensland Sugar Pooled:

The 1939 peaks operated during the 1943 season. This scheme provides for a total of 737,000 tons of 94 N.T. sugar to be delivered to No. 1 Pool and thus share the benefit of the higher price declared for local consumption. In 1943 no mill exceeded its peak.

A total of 486,342 tons of sugar was delivered to No. 1 Pool, of which 410,704 tons were for local consumption and 75,638 tons for export. There were also 12 tons of sugar made from cane grown on unassigned land, making a total of 75,650 tons of sugar for export. In addition, mills manufactured 69 tons of sugar for sale to local farmers, etc.

Prices and Values for Pooled Sugar:

Deliveries for local consumption were priced at £22.10. 6 per ton and export sugar realised £13. 2. 6 (Australian currency) F.O.B. at mill ports. The average price paid for No. 1 Pool sugar was £21. 1. 3 per ton. A nominal price of 10s.0d. per ton was paid for sugar from cane grown on unassigned land.

The following table of average prices paid by the Sugar Board for deliveries during the last five years illustrates the beneficial effect of the lower production on the average price. Higher proportions of the total sugar produced have been absorbed by the Australian consumption, and the export quota has fallen from around 55 per cent. in the immediate pre-war years to 16 per cent. in 1943.

| Season. | Sugar for Australian Consumption. | Sugar for Export. | All Deliveries. | |
|------------|---|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | To No. 1 Pool Only. | To Nos. 1 and 2 Pools. |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1939 | 23.12. 6 | 10. 7. 6 | 16.19. 7 | 15.15. 3 |
| 1940 | 23. 1. 0 | 11. 5. 6 | 17.11. 9 | 17. 2. 8 |
| 1941 | 22.13. 0 | 10.18. 9 | 17.19. 3 | 17.19. 1 |
| 1942 | 22.14. 6 | 10.16. 3 | 19. 1. 0 | 19. 0. 5 |
| 1943 | 22.10. 6 | 13. 2. 6 | 21. 1. 3 | * |

* There was no sugar for No. 2 Pool.

Factories processing fruit and other manufacturers pay the Australian consumption price for their supplies of refined or other sugar but receive a considerable rebate on the sugar content of that portion of their products sold overseas.

Detailed Summary - State, 1941, 1942 and 1943 Crops.

| Item. | Unit. | 1941. | 1942. | 1943. |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Farms growing cane for sugar .. | No. | 7,538 | 6,945 | 6,871 |
| Area cut for crushing .. | Acres | 246,073 | 231,256 | 220,932 |
| Area cut for plants (a) .. | Acres | 12,326 | 11,614 | 13,562 |
| Area of standover, newly planted etc. (not cut) (a) .. | Acres | 85,388 | 66,821 | 86,247 |
| Total area cultivated for sugar (a) | Acres | 343,787 | 309,691 | 320,741 |
| Area cut for green fodder (N.E.I.) (a) | Acres | 4,800 | 4,819 | 5,292 |
| Cane crushed | Tons | 4,794,237 | 4,353,488 | 3,397,617 |
| Sugar made (94 N.T.) | Tons | 697,644 | 605,609 | 486,423 |
| Average area of cane cultivated per farm | Acres | 45.6 | 44.6 | 46.7 |
| Average area cut for crushing per farm | Acres | 32.6 | 33.3 | 32.2 |
| Average cane crushed per farm .. | Tons | 636 | 627 | 494 |
| Average cane per acre cut for crushing | Tons | 19.48 | 18.83 | 15.38 |
| Average sugar yield per acre .. | Tons | 2.84 | 2.62 | 2.20 |
| Average sugar yield per farm .. | Tons | 92.6 | 87.2 | 70.8 |
| Average cane per ton of sugar .. | Tons | 6.87 | 7.19 | 6.98 |

(a) In sugar growing districts only.

Farms, Areas and Yields in Divisions:

For the purpose of sugar statistics, the State has been divided into the five main divisions of Cairns (including all areas north of Townsville); Townsville (including the Ayr area); Mackay (including Proserpine area); Maryborough (including Bundaberg area); and Moreton (including Maroochy and Logan areas).

In 1943 the Cairns division had 10 mills operating and 2,061 farms; Townsville, 4 mills and 589 farms; Mackay, 8 mills and 2,026 farms; Maryborough, 8 mills and 1,704 farms; and Moreton, 3 mills and 491 farms.

Five Years' Summary for Divisions.

| Division. | Season. | On Farms. | | | In Mills. | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | Farms Growing Cane. | Area Cut for Crushing | Cane Cut for Crushing. | No. of Mills. | Cane Crushed. | Sugar Made. |
| | | No. | Acres. | Tons. | | Tons. | Tons. |
| Cairns (a) | 1939 | 2,209 | 105,307 | 2,442,149 | 10 | 2,378,999 | 351,273 |
| | 1940 | 2,149 | 103,860 | 2,114,872 | 10 | 2,072,079 | 309,438 |
| | 1941 | 2,130 | N | N | 10 | 2,063,078 | 305,928 |
| | 1942 | 2,089 | 97,804 | 1,987,056 | 10 | 1,966,016 | 264,144 |
| | 1943 | 2,061 | 90,711 | 1,453,523 | 10 | 1,430,005 | 206,608 |
| Townsville (a) | 1939 | 628 | 26,029 | 776,281 | 4 | 838,595 | 133,727 |
| | 1940 | 621 | 25,392 | 574,542 | 4 | 616,539 | 89,688 |
| | 1941 | 651 | N | N | 4 | 646,012 | 101,557 |
| | 1942 | 597 | 23,540 | 630,980 | 4 | 652,020 | 99,165 |
| | 1943 | 589 | 20,489 | 414,487 | 4 | 438,005 | 68,247 |
| Mackay (b) | 1939 | 2,250 | 81,770 | 1,557,837 | 8 | 1,558,673 | 237,670 |
| | 1940 | 2,199 | 81,840 | 1,274,084 | 8 | 1,274,880 | 191,091 |
| | 1941 | 2,139 | 77,456 | 1,078,979 | 8 | 1,078,979 | 155,458 |
| | 1942 | 2,072 | 70,439 | 979,953 | 8 | 979,953 | 141,071 |
| | 1943 | 2,019 | 66,689 | 738,797 | 8 | 738,797 | 109,279 |
| Maryborough (c) | 1939 | 2,040 | 43,344 | 1,123,235 | 8 | 1,123,235 | 150,599 |
| | 1940 | 1,940 | 46,238 | 1,065,237 | 8 | 1,065,237 | 149,005 |
| | 1941 | 2,007 | 39,573 | 878,333 | 8 | 878,333 | 118,375 |
| | 1942 | 1,679 | 35,070 | 649,321 | 8 | 649,321 | 87,393 |
| | 1943 | 1,711 | 39,273 | 704,696 | 8 | 704,696 | 91,870 |
| Moreton | 1939 | 693 | 5,731 | 139,319 | 3 | 139,319 | 18,469 |
| | 1940 | 645 | 5,969 | 152,133 | 3 | 152,133 | 20,194 |
| | 1941 | 611 | 5,203 | 127,835 | 3 | 127,835 | 16,326 |
| | 1942 | 508 | 4,403 | 106,178 | 2 | 106,178 | 13,836 |
| | 1943 | 491 | 3,770 | 86,114 | 3 | 86,114 | 10,419 |

(a) Some cane grown on farms in Cairns division is crushed in a mill in the Townsville division.

(b) Includes the Shire of Broadsound. Cane grown in Broadsound is crushed in Mackay Division.

(c) Includes the Shire of Miriam Vale. Cane grown in Miriam Vale is crushed in Maryborough Division.

N. Not available.

Of the total area cultivated for sugar during the 1943 season, 112,308 acres (35.0 per cent.) were in the Cairns division, 34,640 acres (10.8 per cent.) in Townsville, 98,847 acres (30.8 per cent.) in Mackay, 68,982 acres (21.5 per cent.) in Maryborough, and 5,964 acres (1.9 per cent.) in Moreton.

Detailed Summary in Divisions - 1943 Crop.

| Item. | Unit. | Cairns. | Townsville. | Mackay. | Maryborough. | Moreton. |
|--|-------|-----------|-------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| GROWING STATISTICS. | | | | | | |
| Farms growing cane .. | No. | 2,061 | 589 | 2,019 | 1,711 | 491 |
| Area cut for crushing | Acres | 90,711 | 20,489 | 66,689 | 39,273 | 3,770 |
| Area cut for plants (a) | Acres | 6,284 | 1,393 | 4,557 | 1,234 | 94 |
| Area of standover, newly planted, etc. (a) | Acres | 15,313 | 12,758 | 27,546 | 28,530 | 2,100 |
| Total area cultivated for sugar (a) | Acres | 112,308 | 34,640 | 98,792 | 69,037 | 5,964 |
| Area cut for green fodder (N.E.I.) (a) | Acres | 1,017 | 54 | 2,149 | 1,384 | 688 |
| Cane cut for crushing | Tons | 1,453,523 | 414,487 | 738,797 | 704,696 | 86,114 |
| Sugar at 94 N.T. made therefrom | Tons | N | N | 109,279 | 91,870 | 10,419 |
| Average area of cane cultivated per farm | Acres | 54.5 | 58.8 | 48.9 | 40.3 | 12.1 |
| Average area of cane cut for crushing per farm | Acres | 44.0 | 34.8 | 33.0 | 23.0 | 7.7 |
| Average cane crushed per farm | Tons | 705 | 704 | 366 | 412 | 175 |
| Average cane crushed per acre cut | Tons | 16.02 | 20.23 | 11.08 | 17.94 | 22.84 |
| Average sugar yield per acre | Tons | N | N | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.8 |
| Average sugar yield per farm | Tons | N | N | 53.9 | 53.9 | 21.2 |
| MILLING STATISTICS. | | | | | | |
| Cane crushed .. | Tons | 1,430,005 | 438,005 | 738,797 | 704,696 | 86,114 |
| Sugar at 94 N.T. made therefrom | Tons | 206,608 | 68,247 | 109,279 | 91,870 | 10,419 |

(a) In sugar growing districts only.
N. Not available.

Molasses Production and Disposals:

The total production of molasses in 1943 was 14,778,023 gallons, equivalent to 4.3 gallons per ton of cane crushed. This was a decrease of 3,665,331 gallons on the 1942 figure.

Molasses Production and Disposals - Queensland.

| Item. | Average 1937-41. | Season. | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| | | 1942. | 1943. |
| | Gallons. | Gallons. | Gallons. |
| Production | 21,262,523 | 18,443,354 | 14,778,023 |
| <u>How Disposed of -</u> | | | |
| Sold to distilleries .. | 9,868,406 | 10,457,747 | 7,345,596 |
| Burnt in mill furnaces .. | 3,234,754 | 3,024,370 | 2,176,926 |
| Food for stock | 4,349,931 | 3,071,918 | 3,055,728 |
| Used as manure | 3,159,496 | 1,857,300 | 2,122,220 |
| Sold or used otherwise .. | 209,380 | 303,240 | 441,522 |
| Run to waste | 305,051 | 31,153 | 97,643 |
| Total Disposals: | 21,127,013 | 18,745,728 | 15,239,635 |
| <u>Per Cent.</u> | | | |
| Sold to distilleries .. | 46.7 | 55.8 | 48.2 |
| Burnt in mill furnaces .. | 15.3 | 16.1 | 14.3 |
| Food for stock | 20.6 | 16.4 | 20.1 |
| Used as manure | 15.0 | 9.9 | 13.9 |
| Sold or used otherwise .. | 1.0 | 1.6 | 2.9 |
| Run to waste | 1.4 | .2 | .6 |
| Total Disposals: | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Note: The difference between production and disposals is accounted for by stocks carried over.

Molasses Production and Disposals in Divisions - 1943.

| Item. | Cairns. | Townsville. | Mackay. | Maryborough. | Moreton. |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| | Gallons. | Gallons. | Gallons. | Gallons. | Gallons. |
| Production | 6,462,230 | 1,734,607 | 3,074,028 | 3,152,217 | 354,941 |
| <u>How Disposed of -</u> | | | | | |
| Sold to distilleries .. | 3,037,039 | 1,126,427 | 1,425,594 | 1,531,006 | 225,530 |
| Burnt in mill furnaces .. | 1,980,079 | 60,199 | 136,648 | - | - |
| Food for stock | 557,964 | 105,307 | 1,259,376 | 949,323 | 183,758 |
| Used as manure | 1,041,948 | 329,338 | - | 750,934 | - |
| Sold or used otherwise .. | 120,844 | 49,780 | 248,234 | 22,364 | 300 |
| Run to waste | 19,392 | 78,251 | - | - | - |
| In stock at 31st March, 1944 | 589,921 | 51,708 | 155,006 | 73,740 | 2,579 |
| Total available for disposal: | 7,347,187 | 1,801,010 | 3,224,858 | 3,327,367 | 412,167 |

Sugar Mill Statistics:

During the 1943 season 33 raw sugar mills operated, employing 3,834 hands on the basis of full-time employment. Salaries and wages paid amounted to £1,268,725. The value of output, including sales of molasses, mill mud, electricity, etc., and work done by the engineering workshops attached to mills, was £10,136,588. The value of production, which represents the value added by the mills and their tramways, was £2,053,190. This is the difference between the value of output and the costs of cane, fuel and other materials used, including cost of repairs to plant and replacement of tools. It is the fund available for paying salaries and wages, profits, interest, depreciation and various overhead expenses (such as insurance, rates and taxes).

The depreciated value of machinery and plant was £6,814,104, and of land and buildings, £1,106,838. These are book values as shown by mills on their factory returns.

Figures for divisions were :-

| Item. | Cairns. | Townsville. | Mackay. | Maryborough. | Moreton. |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Mills No. | 10 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| Hands employed .. No. | 1,574 | 507 | 822 | 785 | 146 |
| Salaries and wages £ | 545,186 | 171,110 | 272,470 | 237,941 | 42,018 |
| Output £ | 4,303,732 | 1,399,838 | 2,275,068 | 1,935,717 | 222,233 |
| Production .. £ | 834,241 | 287,292 | 442,563 | 429,836 | 59,258 |
| Land and Buildings £ | 506,477 | 195,828 | 184,344 | 203,176 | 17,013 |
| Machinery & Plant £ | 4,053,447 | 790,005 | 1,034,776 | 807,927 | 127,949 |

Accessory Manufacturing:

Establishments which operated on the products of sugar mills were 2 refineries (at Brisbane and Bundaberg) and 4 distilleries (at Sarina, Bundaberg, Beenleigh and Strathpine).

These works employed 408 hands. The products made included refined sugar, golden syrup, treacle, power alcohol, methylated spirits and rum.

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1st February, 1945.